CLAIMS:

1.   (Original) A method of authenticating a digitally encoded product being originated by an entity having at least one authorized subject, the method including the steps of:

a client system transmitting a request of authentication of the product to a server system,

the server system verifying whether the request is received from an authorized subject, and responsive to a positive verification:

certifying that the product originates from the entity using sensitive information of the entity stored on the server system, and

returning a representation of the certification to the client system.

2.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of verifying whether the request is received from an authorized subject includes:

comparing an address of the client system with an indication of authorized addresses stored on the server system.

3.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of verifying whether the request is received from an authorized subject includes:

comparing an identifier of a user logged on the client system with an indication of authorized users stored on the server system.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of certifying includes:

automatically retrieving a private key of the entity stored on the server system, and

digitally signing the product using the private key.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the step of automatically retrieving the private key includes:

calling a signing command passing a password for accessing the private key as a parameter.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the step of automatically retrieving the private key includes:

calling a signing command with an option causing the import of the private key from a private configuration memory area of the server system.

7.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

the client system invoking a remote command on the server system, the server system verifying whether the remote command is included in a predefined list stored on the server system, the list including at least one remote command for satisfying the request of authentication, and

the server system executing the remote command if included in the list.

8.   (Previously presented) A method of authenticating a software product being originated by an entity having at least one authorized subject, the method including the steps of:

a client system transmitting a request of authentication of the product to a server system,

the server system verifying whether the request is received from an authorized subject, and responsive to a positive verification:

generating a digital signature of the product using a private key of the entity stored on the server system, and

returning the digital signature to the client system, wherein the digital signature certifies that the product originates from the entity.

9-19.   (Canceled)